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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 SPH-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /076 W
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R 1819352 OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8714
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0873

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/17/85 (PEREZ, ENRIQUE F.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, BL
SUBJECT: CONCERN OVER BOLIVIAN "DESAPARECIDOS" IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE

1. (C) SUMMARY: BOLIVIAN HUMAN RI...S LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES BELIEVE THERE MAY BE "HUNDREDS" OF BOLIVIAN VICTIMS OF "REPRESSIVE COOPERATION" BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICAN DICTATORSHIPS. ON OCTOBER 16 THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS (PAHR) RELEASED THE NAMES OF SEVENTEEN BOLIVIANS WHO ALLEGEDLY "DISAPPEARED" IN ARGENTINA UNDER BANZER'S ORDERS. PAHR AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES WOULD LIKE US ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING THE FATE OF "DESAPARECIDOS," AND INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ON "OPERATION CONDOR" TO UNMASK PERPETRATORS.

2. (C) FATHER JULIO TUMIRI, PRESIDENT OF PAHR, AND SENATOR LUIS PELAEZ RICJA, SECRETARY OF SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, TOLD LABATT IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS LAST WEEK THEY BELIEVED "HUNDREDS" OF BOLIVIAN CITIZENS OR RESIDENTS MAY HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF "REPRESSIVE COOPERATION" BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICAN DICTATORSHIPS. TUMIRI CLAIMED TO HAVE INFORMATION ON TWENTY BOLIVIANS WHO ALLEGEDLY WERE EXTRADITED TO ARGENTINA OUTSIDE OFFICIAL
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CHANNELS AND WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP PAPERS BY THE BANZER REGIME.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 11/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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PELAEZ CLAIMED THERE MAY BE BOLIVIAN "DESAPARECIDOS" UNDER SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS ALSO IN CHILE. BOTH MEN MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF ASKING THE BOLIVIAN CONGRESS TO SEND A DELEGATION TO CHILE AND ARGENTINA TO FOLLOW-UP ON REPORTS OF ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES OF BOLIVIANS IN THOSE COUNTRIES UNDER THE BANZER REGIME. PELAEZ TIED THESE DISAPPEARANCES TO OPERATION CONDOR, AND ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO SHARE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ON CONDOR ACTIVITIES TO ASCERTAIN IDENTITY OF VICTIMS AND OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PLIGHT. BOTH MEN ASKED LABATT TO REPORT OUR CONVERSATIONS TO US EMBASSIES IN BUENOS AIRES AND SANTIAGO TO ALERT THEM TO THE BOLIVIAN "DESAPARECIDOS" CASES.

3. (U) ON OCTOBER 16 TUMIRI HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND SENT PUBLIC ON THE CASE OF BOLIVIAN "DESPARECIDOS" IN ARGENTINA. HE NAMED SEVENTEEN PERSONS ALLEGEDLY EITHER ARRESTED IN ARGENTINA OR TURNED OVER TO ARGENTINIAN AUTHORITIES AFTER ARRESTS IN BOLIVIA FOR POLITICAL REASONS. TUMIRI CLAIMED TO HAVE GIVEN THESE NAMES TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, INCLUDING THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY WERE: JAIME RAFAEL LARA TORRES; COSME BENITO CHOQUE; CRACIELA RUTILO ARTES; CARLA GRACIELA RUTILO; LUIS STAMPONI; GUSTAVO MEDINA ORTIZ; SERGIO CORC GUITRAGC; HERNAN KRAMER; NILS ALFREDO CASSON CORIA; OSCAR HUGO GONZALEZ DE LA VEGA; FRANZ CARLOS ORTUNO; ROSA MERY RIVEROS TELLERIA; ALBERTO ANGEL CORREA TOPERBERG; GUIDO GUTIERREZ GUZMAN; JUAN CARLOS JORDAN; REYNALDO LAZARO SAENZ BERNAL; EFRAIN FERNANDO VILLA.

4. (U) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THESE PERSONS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/AND/B AND POLITICAL SECTIONS OF AMEMB BUENOS AIRES AND SANTIAGO.

5. (C) COMMENT: LABATT LENT A FRIENDLY EAR TO TUMIRI AND
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PELAEZ BUT ONLY PROMISED TO CONVEY ANY INFORMATION ON THE ALLEGED "DESAPARECIDOS" TO THE USG. IN THE EVENT OF A BOLIVIAN DELEGATION VISIT TO ARGENTINA OR CHILE, IT MAY ADVANCE US HUMAN RIGHTS INTERESTS TO LEND LIMITED ASSISTANCE TO THE BOLIVIANS, I.E., MEETING WITH THEM OR PUTTING THEM IN CONTACT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS IN THOSE COUNTRIES.
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